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HINT OF SECURITY PACT

There is a strong belief along Parliament Hill now that some thing important is brewing suggestive of Canada joining a possible defensive pact with the United States and the western union of European nations in an Atlantic security alliance, with this probably leading to interesting developments in combining military, economic and diplomatic activities. Indeed Defence Minister Claxton has come out bluntly here with the statement that a worsened international situation today may force changes in policy and conduct thru out the world, causing a different Canadian attitude towards national defence quite unlike any previous peacetime period. "We hope it will bring about the participation of the United States and Canada with these countries in an Atlantic security agreement Mr. Claxton declared emphasizing the refusal of the Russians to co-operate in United Nations and "everywhere else" had fathered the western union in Europe.

MAYBE LAST SESSION

It is evident in the capital that Parliament will not likely meet this fall, though it has been urged in quarters notably the CCF, that such a session ought to be summoned to consider the freight case, the rising cost of living and other urgent matters using the expression employed by the CCF leader M.J. Coldwell. However well-informed sources here hold that since both major political parties are engaged now in mending their political fences as new leaders are scheduled to take over power and reorganize their followers in the House, it is most unlikely that they would be ready to start the 5th session before the beginning of 1944 probably towards the end of January. There are even whispers here that the coming fifth session may be the last of Canada's 29th parliament before the next general elections will be held. Consequently, there is no rush to call Parliament at such short notice this fall.

ARRANGEMENT FOR UNION

A delegation from Newfoundland to complete arrangements for union with this country is expected to hold its first meeting in Ottawa on October 1th and the head of the Canadian representatives will be Acting Prime Minister St. Laurent who is going to be chairman of a group which will include Trade Minister Howe, Defence Minister Claxton, Finance Minister Abbott, National Revenue Minister McCann and External Affairs Minister Pearson.

PRICE OF PLEASURE

The latest nationwide survey by the Canadian Government reveals that the people of Ontario paid more to see movies than any others since a total of \$4,137,140 was paid there during the past year for such purposes. In other parts of this country, paid admission involved \$48,544,876 for Quebec; \$1,062,010 for B.C. including Yukon and North West Territories; Manitoba \$13,954,600; Alberta \$12,809,557; Nova Scotia \$10,083,793; Saskatchewan \$10,455,000; New Brunswick \$1,927,133 and Prince Edward Island \$102,033.

BAKERS WITHOUT DOUGH

When the Canadian Government "froze" bread prices without "freezing" costs of articles used by the baking industry, it apparently created a most unsatisfactory state of affairs for the baking industry because many bakers seemingly found themselves paying higher prices for essentials required for their operation though they could not raise their own prices to meet the new conditions. With this in mind, officials of the industry have conferred with Finance Minister Abbott and officials of the War Time Prices and Trade Board here, presenting a strong case why prices in their industry should be allowed to advance in some respects in particular regions where this is absolutely necessary for profitable operations.

It is understood that the baking industry is not seeking a general over-all boost in bread prices across Canada but rather to gain the right to increase prices only in localities where this is found to be necessary on account of the costs of production there. It is pointed out that bakers in certain areas of Canada did not increase their prices for bread this year when increases occurred

elsewhere in this country so that when prices were "frozen" recently as off a certain date such bakers were exposed to an unfortunate condition.

JOINT RECOMMENDATION

"Thus, I should like it to be felt that any recommendation to the Crown for Mr. Pearson's appointment to the Cabinet was made jointly by Mr. St. Laurent and myself," Premier King stated here emphasizing that the promotion of the Under Secretary of State Lester B. Pearson to be Minister of External Affairs was a joint suggestion of the new government leader and the retiring leader. Meanwhile, Mr. Pearson will contest the by-election in Algoma East on October 25 and the former MP for the constituency since 1935, Thomas Farquhar, 73, has moved up to the Senate where there are now 63 Liberals, 21 Progressives-Conservatives and 22 vacancies.

CANCER TREATMENT

Some 600 French speaking doctors gathered in this capital for a convention and they heard that the American College of Surgeons has a record of 50,000 cases registered in the past six years which have been classed as recovery from cancer after observation of five years. The profession does not recognize a recovery until after such a period.

SAID IN THE CAPITAL

"I am now able to state that all nine provinces have indicated their interest in the fulfillment of the program which these federal grants have made possible," Health Minister Paul Martin disclosed here about the complete provincial participation in the nation-wide health program of the Canadian Government. "Our forces are not going to be large but we want them that class, second to none anywhere," Defence Minister Claxton emphasized in this capital.

"As we settle our own problems we hope to be able to do our bit for world peace," Prime Minister John Costello of Eire declared here.

"Every word he says only strengthens the ties between our country and the British Commonwealth of Nations," said John M. Sinclair, Deputy Prime Minister of Northern Ireland upon his arrival here, commenting on Prime Minister Costello's statement in favor of amalgamation of the northern and southern parts of Ireland.

"There is no doubt that forecasts of a shortage early this winter have been greatly exaggerated," stated J. G. Taggart, Chairman, Agricultural Prices Support Board, discussing stories about possible butter shortages in Canada.

"The doctors must fight fear as itself," Dr. George Manseau told as much as they must fight the disease audience of physicians here about the battle against cancer.

"On the whole, Canadian labor is pretty sound," said Dr. Eugene Forsey, director of research, Canadian Congress of Labor, during an address here.

WEEKLY WIND-UP

While the appointment of "Mike" Pearson as the Minister of External Affairs was no surprise to veteran observers along Parliament Hill where this story has been circulating for several weeks, yet many had believed that Defence Minister Claxton would get the appointment.

There is much talk here about the reported decision of President Peron of Argentina to decorate Premier Duplessis of Quebec and Mgr. Olivier Maursault of the University of Montreal since it is known that Canadians could not accept decorations from foreign governments except for war service or exceptional civilian service.

The unemployment insurance fund in Canada is near the \$500,000,000 mark. It is learned here so that it is believed that this would allow payments to continue for about two years in case of a depression.

Six radio experts from the western areas of Germany spent some time in this capital conferring with similar specialists here in closing a six-months tour of the United States and Canada.

Any reports of a possible friction between the Federal District Commission and the City of Ottawa are not correct, according to the Acting mayor of Ottawa Dr. Geldert.

Maybe you know it but a top ranking official here has confirmed that the cost of men's shirts other than work shirts, is 237.6 compared with the general index of 155.8 at last July 2 in the cost-of-living index, on the base of 1939 equals 100. "Most of the price increases occurred during the last year," the Government official told the Royal Commission on Prices here.



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